



HISTORIC CHICAGO
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

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Contact:
Rebecca Tucker – MK Communications
(312) 822-0505; rebecca@mkcpr.com

HCBA energySavers grants awarded to 50 bungalow owners
\$300,000 fuels green renovations and community development

Despite the balmy summer air, many Chicago residents cannot help but think of the colder weather soon approaching – and the high costs associated with heating old and drafty homes. Mary Dee Reynolds, a resident of Austin Island, was certainly thinking about it when she mobilized her block to apply for an energySavers Grant from the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association (HCBA) that would allow her and her neighbors to make energy-efficient renovations to their cherished bungalows and significantly reduce their utility bills.

Earlier this month, Reynolds learned that her enthusiasm and hard-work paid off; the association announced that 50 owners of Historic Chicago Bungalows, including Reynolds, will receive up to \$6,000 through the energySavers Grant Program to make basic energy conservation improvements to their homes that will save between \$1,000 and \$2,000 annually from their energy bills.

The HCBA continues its tradition of encouraging energy-efficiency and neighborhood development with five new blocks throughout the city: 8300 block of South Luella, 11700 block of South Hale, 1000 block of South Mayfield, 6400 block of South Fairfield, 7900 block of South LaSalle and 8100-8200 block of South Paxton. With funding provided by the Department of Environment, up to 10 bungalow owners on each block can receive up to \$6,000 in green-rehab upgrades in the home.

Although the energySavers Grants focus on promoting energy-efficiency and home affordability in bungalows, the positive effects of the program are seen, and felt, in other ways. The program fosters a deep sense of pride in the community and encourages collaboration between the HCBA, grassroots organizations, neighbors and friends to bring green technology into these classic Chicago homes.

“The HCBA’s energySavers program is a truly unique way to engage the bungalow community,” said Annette Conti, the Executive Director of the HCBA. “Not only do these bungalow owners receive the benefit of cleaner indoor air, reduced energy bills and an assessment of their home, but the whole community gets excited about what we are doing and wants to get involved. Before you know it, an entire block is going green.”

And that was certainly the case for Reynolds and her neighbors. “Before winning the grant, I knew the people who lived on either side of me. Now, people who I never spoke

to wave to me and say hello. Everyone was struggling because of the economy, and we all came together to do something about our situation and take advantage of the resources offered by HCBA. Other blocks saw what we were able to accomplish and it's been great for the community."

Additionally, the energySavers grants ensure that bungalows continue to thrive in Chicago. Each year, in partnership with the City's Departments of Energy and Community Development and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the HCBA distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to aid bungalow owners in restoring their homes and improving their energy-efficiency.

"Bungalows are defining icons of the 19th Ward and Chicago as a whole and really contribute to our culture as a whole," says Alderman Ginger Rugai, a pioneer in the bungalow preservation movement. Almost 10 years ago, Ald. Rugai recognized the importance of attracting new homebuyers to bungalows, and spearheaded the creation of the Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative in an effort to encourage Chicagoans to settle in the city and buy the single-family homes.

"The energySavers grants give homeowners, who might not otherwise have the resources, the ability to make necessary renovations to their bungalows that allow the houses to retain their architectural and historical integrity while becoming more modern and environmentally-friendly. The program has been invaluable to continuing the legacy of the Chicago Bungalow."

Since the year 2000, more than 10,000 bungalows have been certified and more than 4,500 bungalow owners have utilized grants and low-cost financing for home purchase and energy efficiency measures.

More information about the HCBA grant programs will be available at the Historic Chicago Bungalow and Green Home Expo on October 17th at the Merchandise Mart. The Expo will be free and open to the public featuring more than 100 exhibitors, "Ask the Experts" with AIA architects and mortgage check up booths, and workshops about home rehab, preservation, energy saving techniques and financing. Street and lot parking are available, and the Merchandise Mart can be easily reached by public transportation, with a Brown Line CTA stop immediately in front of the building.

The Expo is free thanks to the sponsorship of Abt Electronics, Comcast, the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, Bank of America, People's Energy, The Merchandise Mart, Chicago Association of Realtors, Park National, Harris Bank, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, Illinois Housing Development Authority, DNR Construction, Inc. and JL Construction.

For more information about the Green Bungalow Block, the HCBA or the Historic Chicago Bungalow and Green Home Expo, please visit www.chicagobungalow.org or call 312.642.9900.